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Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1] which attests to the broad and substantive cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union over the past two years,

Taking note of the resolutions adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and circulated in the General Assembly and the many activities undertaken by the organization in support of the United Nations,

Taking note also of the outcome of the World Conferences of Speakers of Parliament held in 2000, 2005 and 2010, including the 2010 Declaration on Securing Global Democratic Accountability for the Common Good,[2] which reaffirms the commitment of national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to supporting the work of the United Nations and continuing efforts to bridge the democracy gap in international relations,

Taking into consideration the Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union of 1996,[3] which laid the foundation for cooperation between the two organizations,

[1] A/66/770.
[2] A/65/289, annex I.
[3] A/51/402, annex.

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Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[4] as well as the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[5] in paragraph 171 of which Heads of State and Government resolved to strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in all fields of the work of the United Nations,

Recalling also its resolution 57/32 of 19 November 2002, in which the Inter-Parliamentary Union was invited to participate in the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer, as well as resolutions 57/47 of 21 November 2002, 59/19 of 8 November 2004, 61/6 of 20 October 2006 and 63/24 of 18 November 2008,

Recalling and further endorsing its resolution 65/123 of 13 December 2010 in which the General Assembly, inter alia, decided to pursue a more systematic engagement with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in organizing and integrating a parliamentary component of and contribution to major United Nations deliberative processes and the review of international commitments,

Welcoming the annual parliamentary hearings at the United Nations, as well as other specialized parliamentary meetings organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in cooperation with the United Nations in the context of major United Nations conferences and events,

Welcoming also the growing cooperation between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the new United Nations bodies, in particular the Peacebuilding Commission, the Development Cooperation Forum and the Human Rights Council, in support of the shared goals of democratic governance, national dialogue and reconciliation, respect and promotion of human rights, and enhanced development effectiveness,

Recognizing in particular the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the areas of gender equality, the empowerment of women and combating violence against women, and the close cooperation between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the relevant United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Commission on the Status of Women,

Recognizing the effective cooperation between the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the organization of the national review of international commitments,

Acknowledging the role and responsibility of national parliaments in regard to national plans and strategies, as well as in ensuring greater transparency and accountability at both national and global levels,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to provide for a greater parliamentary contribution and enhanced support to the United Nations;

2. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to continue to work closely in various fields, in particular peace and security,

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[4] See resolution 55/2.

[5] See resolution 60/1.

economic and social development, international law, human rights and democracy and gender issues, bearing in mind the significant benefits of cooperation between the two organizations, to which the report of the Secretary-General attests;[1]

3. *Encourages* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen further its contribution to the work of the General Assembly, including its revitalization, and in relation to the process of United Nations reform and system-wide coherence;

4. *Also encourages* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to continue its efforts in mobilizing parliamentary action towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by the target date of 2015, as well as in bringing a parliamentary contribution to the design of the next generation of global development goals;

5. *Welcomes* the practice of including legislators as members of national delegations to major United Nations meetings and events, as appropriate, and invites Member States to continue this practice in a more regular and systematic manner;

6. *Invites* Member States to further consider ways to regularly work with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in facilitating a parliamentary component to major international processes, along the lines of the parliamentary track of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul from 9 to 13 May 2011;

7. *Calls for* the annual parliamentary hearing at the United Nations to be more closely linked to major United Nations processes, including the preparation of global conferences, so as to help inform such deliberations from a parliamentary perspective;

8. *Encourages* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to provide a parliamentary contribution to the United Nations human rights treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council, along the lines of the cooperation developed in recent years between the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and national parliaments whose countries are under review;

9. *Invites* UN-Women to work closely with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in such areas as the empowerment of women, institutional gender mainstreaming, support to parliaments in promoting gender-sensitive legislation, combating violence against women and the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions;

10. *Encourages* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to further assist in developing closer cooperation between the United Nations and parliaments at the national level, including in terms of strengthening parliamentary capacities, reinforcing the rule of law and helping to align national legislation with international commitments;

11. *Calls upon* United Nations country teams to develop a more structured and integrated manner of working with national parliaments, inter alia, by involving parliaments in consultations on national development strategies and on development aid effectiveness;

12. *Encourages* the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to more systematically avail themselves of the unique expertise of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its member parliaments in strengthening

parliamentary institutions, particularly in countries emerging from conflict and/or in the transition to democracy;

13. *Calls for* the regular annual exchange between the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the senior leadership of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, with a view to building greater coherence in the work of the two organizations, maximizing parliamentary support for the United Nations and helping to forge a strategic partnership between the two organizations;

14. *Recommends* that a new Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union be drawn up, so as to reflect progress and developments over the past years;

15. *Decides*, in recognition of the unique role of national parliaments in support of the work of the United Nations, to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union" and invites the Secretary-General to submit a report under this item.